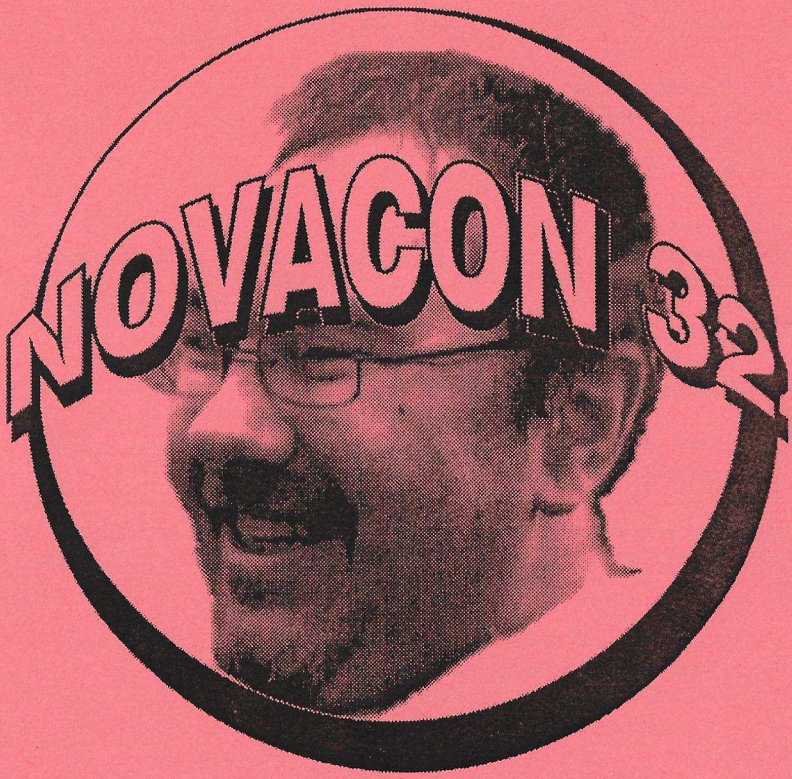

PROGRESS REPORT ONE

1st-3rd November 2002.

Venue: to be confirmed.

Guest of Honour:

Ian McDonald

Novacon 32 The Vital Statistics

How Much? Attending membership is:

- £28 until the end of Novacon 31.
- £32 until Easter
- £35 after Easter until 20th October 2002
- £40 on the door.
- Supporting membership costs £15 throughout.

Postal registrations should be received by **20th October 2002**, after this time please join on the door. Daily rates will be available on the door at £10 Friday, £20 Saturday and £15 Sunday. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "Novacon 32" and sent with your completed form(s) to:

Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ.

Further information from http://www.novacon.org.uk.

Accommodation: As soon as we have confirmed the venue, room rates and booking forms will be available and will be distributed with PR #2.

Advertising: We welcome advertising for both the next three Progress Reports and for the Programme Book. For full rates, deadlines and contact details see the inside back page.

Dealer's Room: Tables will cost £15.00 each for the whole weekend. To book a table (or tables) you must be a member of the convention and complete and return the booking form enclosed with this Progress Report.

Committee:

- Chairman — Martin Tudor 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX (empties@breathemail.net);
- Secretary — Cat Coast, 1 St. Woolos Place, Newport, NP20 4GQ (little.jim@dial.pipex.com);
- Treasurer — David T. Cooper, 3 Yate Lane, Oxenhope, Keighley, West Yorks., BD22 9HL (elwher@ic24.net);
- Programme — Steve Green,33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands, B927LQ (ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk);
- Publications — Dave Hicks, postal address as Cat Coast's above, (little.jim@dial.pipex.com);
- Registrations — Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ (xl5@zoom.co.uk);
- Operations — Alice Lawson postal address as Steve Lawson's above (fab@zoom.co.uk).

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Martin Tudor, Ann and Steve Green for their contributions. Uncredited text by Dave Hicks and Martin Tudor. Artwork/logo by Dave Hicks.

This PR was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier, contact Martin Tudor at the above address for details of WAVE's competitive prices.

Novacon 32 King of Morning

Chairman's Address by Martin Tudor

I first encountered our Guest of Honour Ian McDonald's fiction in the form of *Desolation Road* back in the late eighties and was stunned by the vigour and power of that bleak tale. I was even more surprised by the complete change of style exhibited in *King of Morning, Queen of Day* in the early nineties. Next I came across the disturbingly horrific *Necroville* and the savagely topical *Sacrifice of Fools*, each impressive works.... But Ian really knocked me for six with *Chaga* (and later *Kirinya*) – where you were totally enveloped in that wonderful, disturbing, sense of the *utterly* alien.

Finally, in 1998 I met Ian when we shared a stage at Intuition, the Eastercon that year. I was delighted to discover that he was every bit as stimulating and entertaining in person as his work seemed to indicate. A plan was hatched.... Now, a mere three years later, it has come to fruition and I'm delighted to announce that Ian McDonald has agreed to be our Guest of Honour at Novacon 32 next year!

I'm also delighted to present another strong committee this year with the welcome return of Steve Green on Programme; back again just 17 years since his last committee post (there really is *no escape*...). While after six straight years of doing the publications for Novacon I am relieved to hand the task over to Dave Hicks who will, no doubt, be ably assisted by his partner Cat Coast who reprises her role as Secretary. Back again for more punishment we also have David T. Cooper as Treasurer, Alice Lawson on Operations and Steve Lawson on Registrations.

As yet we have not confirmed a deal with a hotel, but we have pencilled in the 1st-3rd November with the Quality Hotel – if you are happy with them and they are happy with us we hope to return here. However, I have put out the usual feelers at hotels around the Midlands, just in case! Please let me have your comments as soon as possible, I can be contacted at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX or e-mail empties@breathemail.net.

Novacon 32 The Old Razzle Dazzle

The Programme by Steve Green

There's an air of the old-time striptease to the very first article on a Novacon programme: you have to let slip just enough to keep the punters interested, but keep the best bits back for nearer the finale. Thankfully, feather boas are not compulsory.

Let's begin at the beginning: Novacon 32 will feature a single-stream programme with a strong emphasis on written science fiction, but allowing plenty of room for our traditional fannish mayhem, as well as maintaining Novacon's strong links with the scientific community.

"No change there, then," you might be thinking; well, yes, to a point, given that Novacon hasn't reached its fourth decade without getting a few things right over the years. But, just as the choice of Gwyneth Jones as GoH threw new angles into Dave Hicks' programme (not least the ghostly presence of "Ann Halam"), our decision to honour Ian McDonald has already influenced the filter through which we shall interpret our programme. After all, Ian is as at home with groundbreaking sf (*Desolation Road*) and borderline horror (*Necroville*) as he is with their visual complement (*Doomwatch*).

I shall explore this further in the next progress report, by which time we should have received your completed questionnaires. As we look forward to your feedback, I promise you can look forward to a Novacon which combines the comfort of the familiar with the shock of the new.

Except, of course, it only works if you're there to witness it. At its heart, Novacon is a *gestalt*, a coalescence of authors, fans and those newcomers who are lucky enough to follow the right star and find us (me, I mostly blame Rog Peyton). Be there, or be somewhere else – but I'm sure somewhere else will have a real job being as fun as Novacon 32.

Oh, before I forget: you may want to keep late Saturday free. Just a thought.

"From New Street Station, which looks more like a failed Swedish prison every year…" Leroy kettle on Novacon 14, and nobody *ever* figured out what he meant. (Epsilon 15, Ed. Rob Hansen, Dec 1983)

Novacon 32 The Nova Awards
by Tony Berry

The Nova Awards are given for work in fanzines. There are three awards: Best Fanzine, Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Artist. All members of Novacon who are active in fandom can vote. For a fanzine to qualify, one or more issues must have been published between 1st October 2001 and 30th September 2002. For artists or writers to qualify, a piece of their work must have been published for the first time between those dates.

For further information, contact me at 68 Windsor Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8PB. If you want a copy of the Nova Rules, please enclose 50p to cover copying and postage.

Book Room

Enclosed with this PR you will find a membership form, if you wish to book tables in the Book Room please complete the relevant section of this form and return it to Steve Lawson at the address below. Tables cost £15 each for the weekend.
For further information contact: Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ (e-mail xl5@zoom.co.uk or telephone 0114-281-1572).

Operations

As we are sure you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention – anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact our Ops Manager, Alice Lawson, at 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ (e-mail fab@zoom.co.uk).

Crèche

We are looking into the possibility of running a crèche this year. If you are interested in using such a facility please contact Martin Tudor at the address below.

Please let him know names and ages of the children who might be using the facility, along with any special requirements or other relevant

information (allergies, special needs etc). Contact: Martin Tudor (Chairman), 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX (empties@breathemail.net).

Novacon 32 The Art Show
by Ann Green

This year's Art Show is being run by yours truly, Ann Green. If you're planning to show any work please contact me to let me know your display needs. If you'd like to help out in any way please get in touch either by contacting me beforehand or early at the Con. All help and advice is greatly appreciated.
33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull B92 7LQ,
0121 706 0108 (if you get the answer phone leave a number)
or e-mail neergnna@yahoo.co.uk

[Enclosed with this PR you will find a membership form, if you wish to book space in the art show please complete the relevant section of this form and return it to Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ (e-mail xl5@zoom.co.uk or telephone 0114-281-1572).]

The CD-ROM Art Show

Following the success of our innovative CD ROM Art Shows we are again inviting contributions.
If you have work you wish to exhibit on CD-ROM or you know of someone who has, please contact: Ann Green, 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull B92 7LQ, 0121 706 0108 (if you get the answer phone leave a number), or e-mail neergnna@yahoo.co.uk

Novacon's RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind's "Talking Books for the Blind Project". So, if you have anything you would like to donate as a prize for the raffle please contact Martin Tudor (Chairman), address as above.

To advertise in our splendid publications...

Rates: The rates are as follows (fan rates in brackets):

Progress Reports –

- Full page £30.00 (fan £15.00)
- Half page £16.50 (fan £9.00)
- Quarter page £9.00 (fan £6.00)

Programme Book –

- Full page £75.00 (fan £35.00)
- Half page £40.00 (fan £17.50)
- Quarter page £20.00 (fan £10.50)

Anyone interested in advertising should contact Dave Hicks (Publications): 1 St. Woolos Place, Newport, NP20 4GQ (little.jim@dial.pipex.com). Deadlines for camera-ready advertising copy are detailed below.

Deadlines:

- PR #2: 15th February 2002, to be distributed for Easter 2002.
- PR #3: 26th July 2002, to be mailed end August 2002.
- PR #4: 13th September 2002, to be mailed mid-October 2002.
- Programme Book: 13th September 2002, distributed at Novacon 32.

"Alongside the pool there was an exercise machine… At regular intervals they'd sidle up, one of their number would bashfully mount, and the others would stand around in silent admiration while the chosen cretin solemnly clomped up and down, up and down. Perhaps they were celebrating the discovery that here, at last, was The Holy Place where it was possible – *for several minutes at a time* to put one foot in front of another without bumping into something." D West on Novacon 8, 'Convention Death Wish', (Seamonsters 3, ed. Simone Walsh, Mar 1979)

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